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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Pittsburgh

COMMERCIAL,

DAILY AND WEEKLY

LEADING

Pennsylvania Paper.

The claims of the COMMERCIAL upon the reading public for support are based upon its past record as a progressive journal. Treating all topics and questions fearlessly and honestly, it will not be content to pursue the beaten path, but will endeavor to mark out new and improved ways in journalism. The Press is destined to play a still more important part in the education of the people, and as the reflector of advanced public sentiment. Always in the van hertofore, it will not now be content to lag in the rear, but will be fully abreast of the times in everything that relates to the general welfare. As a Paper of

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AND

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 1, 1874.

The Transit of Venus.

The preparations of the Naval Observatory for the transit of Venus on December 8, 1874, are progressing. The transits and clocks have been received, and the photographic corps is engaged daily in practising with the instruments specially constructed for the important work of taking two hundred views of the transit. The disposition of the astronomical work at the proposed stations, as far as decided, is as follows: Two officers from the Naval Observatory, Professors Harkness and Hall; two from the Coast Survey, George Davidson senior assistant, and the other not determined upon; one from the army, not yet decided; one from the navy, Lieutenant Commander Ryan, head of the Department of Physics and Chemistry of the United States Naval Academy; two civilians, Professors Watson, of Ann Arbor Observatory, Michigan, and Peters, of Hamilton College, New York. In addition to these chief astronomers, each party will consist of one assistant and three photographers. The astronomers will assemble here in April for practice with the instruments. The four parties for the Southern Hemisphere will leave in June, and the four for the Northern in August.

The Chorpenning Claim.

Mr. Cessna, it appears, did after all refer his Chorpenning memorial to the Committee on the Judiciary, of which he is a member. After his speech on the last day of the session before the recess, he said he would withdraw the memorial, as he had not determined what reference to make of it. Mr. Cessna had previously made the point that it ought not to go to the Judiciary Committee, as Mr. Cessna was a member thereof. Mr. Cessna, however, availing himself of the privilege which allows petitions to be referred at the Clerk's desk without reading them in open House, had it referred to the very committee which had been objected to.

The List of Postmasters

of the United States, revised and corrected to January 1st, 1874, was sent to the public printer to-day, and will be ready by the first of March. The list comprises about thirty-four thousand postoffices. There is also a separate list, for the first time prepared, of money order offices, three thousand in number, which will also include the foreign offices in Great Britain, Germany and Switzerland, established under postal conventions with those countries.

The Public Debt Statement

for December shows an increase of eight and one-half millions. Of the loan of 1868 already matured, but one million has been exchanged for the new five per cents., as authorized by act of Congress. Up to date twenty-two and one-half millions of the reserves have been issued. The Secretary to-day informed Senators and Members who visited the department, that the expenditures would continue to exceed the receipts until the remainder of the reserve, twenty and one-half millions, was issued, the day-books would foot up on the wrong side, and consequently would have to be done, whether by taxation, inflation or a loan, he said it was for Congress to decide. Inflation is favored by the Western members. The objection to a loan is the doubtless introduced with the purest intentions, but the result of its adoption would be to put it into the hands of a majority to stifle any investigation into alleged irregularities in any of the departments. A similar resolution was sent to the Committee on Rules last Congress but no action was taken on it, and as the personnel of the committee has not been much changed this Congress, it will probably be again pigeon-holed.

Army Prisons for Mill ary Convicts.

The Military Committee of the House of Representatives has before it a bill to establish army prisons for military convicts. The bill is recommended by the War Department, and is, to a great extent, modeled after the British system. Under present arrangements, all military convicts under sentence for the higher crimes, are confined in various State penitentiaries. This not only costs the government a great sum of money, but it is objectionable in other points of view. Imprisonment in a penitentiary for a military crime has such a demoralizing influence that the prisoner is seldom, if ever, restored to return to the service, but is discharged upon conviction. The main features of the military prison system are that it is less expensive; that an example is enforced upon the army by the near presence of the prison to military stations; that it enforces humane and healthful punishment upon the convicts themselves, and that it recognizes good behavior by an adjusted scale of privileges, while on the other hand, it recognizes bad conduct by a scale of punishment. The experience of the British system has been that in many cases the convicts are moulded into as good soldiers as any in Her Majesty's service, while the punishment in a State penitentiary is utterly demoralizing.

Patent Convention.

The object of the Patent Convention to be held in this city on the 15th inst., not being generally understood from the announcement which has been made, the following address will afford the desired information to be interested:

"The difficulties to which American inventors are subjected in attempts to secure some protection for their inventions in foreign countries, are well known. The unsatisfactory condition of legislation relating to patents, has been the theme of discussion in many quarters, within the last few years, especially as the frequent recurrence of International Expositions has made the defects there in more and more apparent.

"In connection with the late exposition at Vienna there was convened an International Congress, for the purpose of considering the subject of patent protection for inventions. This congress appointed a permanent committee, the members of which were authorized to organize branch associations in their respective countries, and in general to adopt measures in aid of the movement inaugurated at Vienna.

"The resolutions adopted by that Congress have already been published in this country, and will be recognized as embodying, with some few exceptions, the principles of the American system. The interest manifested in the discussion of the resolutions, and the unanimity with which they were adopted, afford encouraging signs of ultimate success, in which none are more deeply interested than the inventors of this country. But our friends abroad greatly need the information and aid which we can readily furnish, for we are the foremost nation in the world in the liberality and success of our patent system.

"Under the authority vested in us, we therefore invite all those interested in any way in the subject of patent protection, to assemble in convention at Washington, D. C., on Thursday, January 15, 1874, for the purpose of discussing this topic, and, if thought desirable, of organizing a United States Patent Association.

"J. M. THACHER,
"HAMILTON A. HILL,
"WILLIAM P. BLAKE,
"*Of the Committee.*"

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 5, 1874.

Estimates for the Army.

The House Committee on Appropriations, at their meeting this morning, agreed upon a further reduction of two millions in the army estimates, or a total of about four millions on the whole bill. The reductions made by the department amounted to two millions, making a total reduction of six millions. The amount allowed is twenty-eight and one-half millions, or about two and one-half millions less than the appropriations for the present fiscal year.

Estimates for the Navy.

The Secretary of the Navy to-day submitted a statement of over three millions reductions practicable in the estimates for the naval establishment. This, of course, is based on *the supposition* that there will be no further necessity for the extensive preparations required by the warlike aspect of our relations with Spain. The expenditures on account of the work already done in that connection will be covered by the five million naval emergency bill. The Secretary will appear before the committee in person to-morrow. The largest reductions will be made in the Bureaus of Construction and Repair and Steam Engineering.

Aspirants for General Sweet's Position.

The vacancy occasioned by the death of General Sweet, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, has started a lively race among aspirants for that office. Mr. Rogers, of Pennsylvania, at present a deputy commissioner, is supported by the office, and seems to have the best chance.

Grant at the Capitol.

The President visited the Capitol to-day, and spent two hours in the President's room, in consultation on various subjects, prominent among which was the issue of rations to the people of certain districts in the South where there is a scarcity. After a brief interview with Speaker Blaine, he received the Louisiana Republican delegation in Congress, who, it is understood, urged a new election, believing that it would be the most feasable method of quieting the political excitement in that State. They are confident of Kellogg's success. The latter would not go the Pinchback embarrassment. The President next had a long conversation with Senator Cameron, after which he received a number of other Senators, including the Judiciary Committee.

Affairs in Spain.

The sudden turn of political affairs in Spain, though not considered impossible at any moment, has given rise to considerable surprise, as it was the general belief that Castelar would be able to maintain himself. The appointment of Marshal Serrano as the chief of executive power is looked upon as inimical to future satisfactory negotiations with Spain respecting the questions arising out of the Virginius case.

The Pension List.

The reduction in the pension list for last year was small, while the additions were unusually large. The probable restoration of the widows of the soldiers of the war of 1812, who were dropped during the rebellion, and other applications, it is feared, will require an increase of the thirty millions required for pensions.

NEW YORK WORKINGMEN.

Demonstration in Union Square Yesterday—Attempt to Interview City Officials — Incendiary Addresses — Mass Meeting Called for Thursday.

NEW YORK, January 5.—About a thousand unemployed workingmen met in mass meeting this morning, in Union Square, in response to a call issued by one Patrick A. Dunn, to denounce the Mayor, Aldermen and Comptroller in failing to order heads of departments to have all work done by day labor instead of by contract. Theodore H. Banks, who appears at all similar meetings, was made temporary chairman, and in the course of a short address urged the workingmen to come to the front and held their own against swindling politicians who have got control of the organization. He advised them, however, not to take di finite action now, but wait for the open air meeting of next week, arranged by the Committee of Safety, at the close of which the unemployed would march to the City Hall and pass in review before the Mayor and Aldermen. Dunn, who issued the call, now appeared, and was made permanent chairman. He also advised the workingmen not to be too hasty, at the same time urging them to organize on the spot and march to City Hall and await the reply of the Mayor. Comptroller and Aldermen to their demands. One Magnire followed, saying if the demands were not acceded to by fair means, then force must be used to prevent the heads of the departments from taking their own way. A committee of five were appointed to wait on the Mayor and Comptroller, after which all started for City Hall, their numbers being increased by the addition of crowds in the streets. On reaching the Hall, the committee of five attempted to see the Mayor and different heads of departments, but failed in every instance. The crowd of this accompanied them then listened to more addresses and, after resolving to hold a grand demonstration on Thursday next, dispersed.

TRAGEDY IN GREENE COUNTY, OHIO.

An Aged Couple Attacked in Their Bed—Murderous Blows Freely Given—The Lady Fatally Injured—Arrest of the Alleged Assassin.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

XENIA, O., January 5, 1874.

About two o'clock yesterday morning a dastardly attempt at murder and robbery was made near Jamestown, in this county. The occurrence took place at the residence of Mr. McDonald, who keeps the toll gate one-fourth of a mile from Jamestown, on the Xenia pike. At the time mentioned, Mr. Jerry McDonald was at his father's and heard a terrible crash in the front part of the house, which also awoke his wife. Before they had time to surmise what was the matter, they heard cries of "Murder!" "Help!" &c. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald instantly rushed into the room occupied by their aged parents, where they beheld by the dim light of a sledge-hammer in the act of dealing a death blow upon the mother. At this timely interference the scoundrel fled, leaving the old couple seriously injured. The old gentleman had been struck by a blow on the side of his head. Of the blows received by Mrs. McDonald, one upon her forehead, it is thought, will prove fatal. The door was broken open by a sledge-hammer, procured at a blacksmith shop in Jamestown. Samuel Hayslett, a young man of Jamestown, was arrested, and had a preliminary trial before Squire Steckley to-day, the result not yet known.

WASHINGTON, PA.

Dedication of the Second Presbyterian Church.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., January 5, 1874.

The Second Presbyterian congregation took possession of and dedicated their new church building yesterday. The services in the morning were conducted by Dr. Hays, President of the College, and in the evening by Dr. Brownson, pastor of the First Church.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Mansfield, Coldwater and Lake Michigan—Annual Meeting—Financial Exhibit—Election of Directors.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MANSFIELD, O., January 5, 1874.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Mansfield, Coldwater and Lake Michigan Railroad was held in this city to-day. Hon. S. W. Hiller, of Napoleon, Ohio, was called to preside, and F. B. Skinner, of Battle Creek, Mich., was elected Secretary. A report was submitted from the Michigan division, which is one hundred miles in length. Twelve miles of the northern end are completed. Upon the balance of the line, eighty-eight miles to the Ohio State line, $904,552 have been paid, the main portion for grading, engineering, right of way. The work remaining to be done is estimated at $18,845; indebtedness, $62,497 76; assets, subscriptions unpaid, $60,217. S. B. Sturgis submitted a report of the Ohio division, of which the following is an abstract: Total subscriptions to all branches, $1,139,800 90; total paid, $770,601 04; leaving a balance of $369,289 41 unpaid. The total amount expended on the line is $821,169 44. After the reports were read, balloting for directors was proceeded with, and the following were elected: S. B. Sturgis, R. F. Smith, V. H. Collier, H. C. Lewis, F. A. Gorham, W. Swayne, H. C. Hedges, W. Sheffield, Jas. Fisk, D. B. Hughes, J. Twing Brooks, F. W. Smith and William Sheffield. The meeting then adjourned to meet at Coldwater, Michigan, on the first Monday of January, 1875. There not being a quorum of the directors-elect present in the city to-day, no organization of the board, by the selection of officers, was made.

The Virginius Negotiation.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS.

Correspondence Between Secretary Fish and Minister Sickles.

Inside History of the Complications.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 5, 1874.

The President to-day sent the following message to the Senate and House of Representatives:

In my annual message of December last, I gave reason to expect that when the full and accurate text of the correspondence relating to the steamer Virginius, which had been telegraphed in cipher, should be received, the papers concerning the capture of the vessel, the execution of part of its passengers and crew and the restoration of the ship and survivors, would be transmitted to Congress. In compliance with the expectations then held out, I now transmit the papers and correspondence on this subject. On the 26th of September, 1870, the Virginius was registered in the custom house, at New York, as the property of a citizen of the United States, he having first made the oath required by law, that he was the true and only owner of said vessel, and that there was no subject or citizen of any foreign Prince or State directly or indirectly, by way of trust, confidence or otherwise, interested therein. Having complied with the requirements of the statute in that behalf, she cleared in the usual way for the port of Cayoes, and on or about the 4th of October, 1870, sailed for that port. It is not disputed that she made a voyage according to her clearance, nor that from that day to this she has not returned within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States. It is also understood that she preserved her American papers, and that when within foreign ports she made a practice of putting forth the claim to American nationality, which was recognized by the authorities at such ports. When, therefore, she left the port of Kingston, in October last, under the flag of the United States, she would appear to have had, as against all powers except the United States, the right to fly that flag, and to claim its protection, as enjoyed by all regularly documented vessels, registered as part of our commercial marine. No state of war existed conferring upon all nations powers the right to molest and detain upon the high seas a documented vessel, and it cannot be pretended that the Virginius had placed herself without the role of the law by acts of piracy against the human race. If her papers were irregular or fraudulent, the offense was one against the law of the United States, punishable only in their tribunals. It is, therefore, it became known that the Virginius had been captured on the high seas by a Spanish man-of-war, that the American flag had been hauled down by the captors, that the vessel had been carried in a Spanish port, and that Spanish criminal proceedings had been instituted against the persons and property of the United States citizens, not only in violation of international law, but in contravention of the provisions of the treaty of 1795, which directed a demand to be made upon Spain for the restoration of the vessel and for the return of the survivors to the protection of the United States, and for a salute to the flag, and for the punishment of the offending parties. The principles upon which these demands rested, could not be seriously questioned. That it was suggested by Mr. Robeson, and represented that there were grave doubts whether the Virginius was entitled to the protection given her by her papers, and whether, therefore, a demand for the United States, after the surrender of the vessel and surrivors, indispense with the salute to the flag, should such facts be established to their satisfaction. This seemed to be reasonable and just. I therefore directed that a telegram be sent to Sickles, requesting him to inform the Spanish government that there were grave doubts whether the Virginius was entitled to the protection given her by her papers, and whether, therefore, a demand for the United States, after the surrender of the vessel and surv

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1874.

ACCORDING to a late German paper, Mr. BAYARD TAYLOR recently delivered a lecture in Weimar on the subject of American literature. His audience appear to have been greatly pleased. The Frankfort *Zeitung*, referring to the occasion, says that Mr. TAYLOR spoke excellently in the German language, of which he has perfect command," and, also, he had enjoyed the personal acquaintance of many of the authors whose works were mentioned, he was enabled to present his subject in a manner novel to a majority of those who heard him.

THE distinguished explorer, Sir SAMUEL BAKER, relates an amusing story of how, during his late travels in Southern Egypt, he talked to a powerful African chiefain on the sin and cruelty of the slave trade until he brought tears into his eyes; but, wiping the pious drops away, the chief then turned square by round and offered to sell his own son to the homilist for a spade. "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." This almost equals the beautiful humanitarian sensitiveness of some of our Congressional back-pay-sters.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has just rendered a decision confirming the validity of a large amount of Illinois registered town bonds, issued in aid of the Illinois Grand Trunk Railroad. The town attempted to avoid paying the interest on the bonds, alleging that they were illegally issued. The basis of the decision of the court was that no irregularity precedent to issue, not even fraud on the part of the agents of the town, can vitiate the bonds in the hands of an innocent holder. The court applies the same rules to these bonds as are applied to commercial paper. The principle underlying the decision is of general application, and hence of general importance.

A WESTERN authority on the timber question estimates the amount of pine timber still standing in the forests of North America at 248,440,000,000 feet, distributed as follows:

Maine	1,500,000,000
New York	300,000,000
Pennsylvania	7,000,000,000
Michigan	50,000,000,000
Minnesota	18,000,000,000
Wisconsin	16,600,000,000
West Virginia	7,000,000,000
Virginia (yellow pine)	150,000,000
South Carolina (yellow pine)	70,000,000
North Carolina	1,650,000,000
Florida (yellow pine)	1,700,000,000
Georgia (yellow pine)	1,500,000,000
Total	105,440,000,000
The dominion forests, say	75,000,000,000
Total, East of the Rocky mountains	178,440,000,000
West of the mountains, say	70,000,000,000
Total North America	248,440,000,000

The statistician regards this timber as worth two dollars per thousand feet as it stands; and says: "Add ten dollars per thousand worth of labor to it, and we have the pretty little figure of $2,981,280,000." It is possible that the estimates given are slightly extravagant, but the figures are quite interesting.

TO-DAY is the date fixed for the conference meeting, at Pottsville, between the coal operators and miners of the Schuylkill region, to decide the basis of a schedule of mining for the present year. An opinion seems to prevail that the conference will adjourn without agreeing upon a basis, owing to the determined sentiment among the miners against the proposed reduction. The conference will be composed of parties closely identified with the coal interest, including representatives from the individual operators, the Philadelphia Coal and Iron Company, and the Miners Benevolent Association. The conference decides that the reduction shall be made, the miners will probably strike, and it is feared that the disaffection will extend throughout the entire Schuylkill region, within which territory there are embraced two hundred collieries and mines, of which three-fourths are now working upon full time. From forty-five to fifty thousand people are employed and are interested in this question of a basis. It is on every ground to be trusted that moderate and conciliatory counsels on both sides may prevail.

THE recent Democratic victory in Texas does not appear to have had the effect of tranquilizing the bellicose ardency of the chivalrous Bourbons of that State, in any perceptible degree. Late travelers in that region report the existence of a very deplorable condition of affairs. The Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee recently delivered a flaming reactionary harangue, in which he said: "I assert that rather than submit to the measure that is now before the Legislature I will teach my children, and my children's children, to hate it; for it is the emblem of the degradation and thraldom of my country." In the interior Democratic counties, remote from the avenues of commerce, it is said to be extremely hazardous for a Northern man to make known his opinions. Convictions upon criminal charges in the courts in these localities, where Northern men are the aggrieved parties, are next to impossible. It is understood that the Legislature will call a new Constitutional Convention, for the purpose of repealing those articles of the present Constitution which reserve for the use of common schools six sections of land in every county in the State, a step which would inevitably result in the complete destruction of the new free school system so recently introduced under Republican rule. The outlook in the Lone Star State, so lately, to all appearance, on the high road of honorable prosperity and emprise, is by no means encouraging.

PROPAGATING ANARCHY.

It is not surprising to learn that some alarm has been caused by the recent declarations of multitudes of workingmen in favor of a reconstruction of society. A single gathering of hungry people in a great city for the purpose of denouncing property and avowing communist theories, might, it is said, mean little, and need cause no anxiety; whereas successive meetings of the kind seem to imply something like systematic warfare on established institutions. No one will pretend that the proceedings referred to are agreeable or cheering phenomena. Irrespective of the want and various suffering in which these movements originate, they seem painfully premature, indicating the presence of conditions which most Americans have been accustomed to fancy far away in the future from their actual social state. We do not, however, believe that at present they afford any sufficient ground for alarm or anxiety. Perhaps, indeed, they ought rather to be looked upon as practical warnings, received long beforehand, of perils which lie in our forward path, and against which there is still abundant time to provide safeguards.

They are not the legitimate outgrowth of American conditions. In all the principal meetings of revolutionary workmen, the men of the class who made speeches or proposed resolutions have shown that they are "dominated" by ideas which they must have formed, or adopted before coming to this country. However well educated or intelligent in some respects they may be, they seem quite ignorant of the republican form of citizenship and of the relations between the citizen and his rulers, while they take for granted that the well-to do people around them entertain sentiments and traditions which have no place in American minds. The passion also, with which these harangues are for the most part animated, could never have been first stirred in the American atmosphere of political and legal equality. It is a passion kindled and long nurtured in a society molded and pervaded by the spirit of feudalism. Though the men agitated by it may have been for years in this country they have never ceased to be imposed upon by appearances. Men of mature age neither speedily learn a foreign language nor speedily comprehend the life of a foreign nation, and the consequence is, that, like HORACE'S voyagers, in crossing the sea they have changed their sky but not their minds. It is equally clear that many of the speakers and those who applaud them have not, in a residence of several years, become aware of even the material or economical advantages by which they are here surrounded. While these things they have never made the truth fairly their own, but by thrift, industry and patience, every healthy man of sound mind may in this country literally conquer fortune, and that if the laborer does not in a few years become an employer of labor, the failure is generally his own fault.

Though a few of the most mischievously influential leaders of the communist laborers in American cities are native Americans, American workmen in general have no sympathy with communism. The leaders referred to are transparent demagogues who are trying to make a livelihood and a sort of reputation out of the ignorance, simplicity and wants of their followers. They are merely a variety or species of the class so numerous in the country, the men and women to whom all old things seem over old, to whom no new things seem new enough. Fortunately, under the happy economical conditions of the country and the teaching of experience, the great mass of the industrious population are thoroughly imbued with the individual spirit and the rational convictions in which possession and its rights are grounded and intrenched. There are few if any owners of property however insignificant, among us who would not defend it with their life; there are few who hope to own property, not ready with their life to maintain the privilege. Hence noisy reformers, the busy innovators of American birth, of whom there are so many, do not now a-days directly assail institutions which they know to be dear to the popular heart. Perhaps many of them in their poverty of knowledge and thought, do not even know, at least to a certainty, the proper tendency and effect of their own teachings. Often mere restlessness or childish vanity—"the ambition which angles for surprise"—is one chief motive of the activity with which they labor to propagate among the people their degrading and ruinous theories. Often, however, a dastardly recklessness of consequences plays an important part in this propagandism; burning for notoriety while hopeless of worthy fame, the miserable retailer of exploded errors or weak men's dreams, pursues his ignoble trade in utter indifference to the individual and social wretchedness which his labors are adapted to produce. Institutions which possess the highest sanction, and of which the utility is obvious to the great majority, are treated with contempt as effete, while as substitutes theories and schemes are presented of which the absurdity is manifest to every one who possesses even a little elementary instruction in the subject concerned. Until rather lately Americans have been wont to assume that the mere ability to read with the habit of reading the newspapers, if not books, would suffice to guard the people against errors dangerous to society and order. Within the last few years this belief has certainly been very much shaken in many who regard our national future with new anxiety. As few, or rather nobody, would favor forcible interference in any degree with the activity of the demagogue and the innovator, it would seem that the only means of counteracting the mischief of their labors must be found in more complete and satisfactory elementary instruction in the public schools.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Herewith we publish in full the Message of Governor HARTRANFT to the Legislature, delivered to that body yesterday. Lengthy as it is, it will repay attentive perusal; being well written, frank, courteous, incisive, and pervaded by an unmistakable spirit of sincerity and liberality. We have not space to refer to its various recommendations in detail; neither, indeed, is that necessary. Not a few of the various improvements and reforms which it advises have already and repeatedly been advocated in the columns of the COMMERCIAL—*id est*, its restrictive suggestions with reference to the financial institutions of the State, its observations with regard to our chartered industrial companies, to the exercise of the pardoning power, to the importance of an liberal support of the Centennial, the necessity of a more comprehensive treatment of that great problem of modern society—our pauper, criminal, and afflicted classes—as well as to the importance of a new geologic and mineral survey—pisciculture, forestry, and other subjects of general interest and gravity.

The financial statement is especially gratifying. The total public debt of the State amounted, on the 30th of last November, to $25,708,821 94; but the bonds in the Sinking Fund, and the balance in the State Treasury, diminish this amount by $11,025,151 24; which reduces the actual outstanding indebtedness of the Commonwealth, as yet unprovided for, to $14,773,670—an amount considerably less than the bonded and floating debt of Chicago, and which, moreover, is in the same sure and steady path in which Judge BLACK desired to see the United States constitutional amendments placed—that, namely, of gradual ultimate extinction; pretty conclusive evidence that the financial affairs of the Commonwealth have been wisely and economically administered. The Message is wholly free from partisan spirit and bias, and in every way deserves to command the respect and attention of the Legislature and of the people.

The New Monetary Valuation.

The Secretary of the Treasury on Monday issued the following proclamation of the newly-fixed valuation of foreign moneys, and instructions to collectors thereon:

VALUES IN UNITED STATES MONEY OF ACCOUNT, OF THE PURE GOLD OR SILVER REPRESENTING THE MONETARY UNITS, RESPECTIVELY, OF FOREIGN COINS.

Country.	Monetary unit.	Standard.	Value in U. S. Money of account.
Argentine Re.	Peso fuerte	Gold	$1 000
Austrian	Florin	Silver	47 60
Belgian	Franc	Gold and silver	19 30
Bolivia	Dollar	Silver	90 50
Brazil	Milreis of 1,000 reis	Gold	54 60
Brit. Possessions in N. America	Dollar	Gold	1 00 00
Cent'l America	Dollar	Silver	90 50
Chili	Peso	Silver	91 22
Cuba	Peso	Gold	92 58
Denmark	Crown	Gold	26 80
Ecuador	Dollar	Silver	90 50
Egypt	Dollar of 20 piastres	Silver	1 00 92
France	Franc	Gold and silver	19 30
Great Britain	Pound sterling	Gold	4 86 65
Greece	Drachma	Silver	19 30
German Emp	Mark	Gold	23 81
Hayti	Gourde	Silver	1 00 00
Jamaica	Pound sterling	Gold	4 86 65
Japan	Yen	Gold	99 67
India	Rupee of 16 annas	Silver	45 81
Italy	Lira	Gold and silver	19 30
Liberia	Dollar	Gold	1 00 00
Mexico	Dollar	Silver	91 18
Netherlands	Florin	Silver	41 50
Norway	Crown	Gold	26 80
Paraguay	Peso	Gold	1 00 00
Peru	Dollar	Silver	90 50
Portugal	Milreis of 1,000 reis	Gold	1 08 47
Prussia	Thaler of 100 copeckers	Silver	71 46
Sandwich Isls	Dollar	Gold	1 00 00
Spain	Peseta or dollar	Gold and silver	19 30
Sweden	Crown	Gold	26 80
Switzerland	Franc	Gold and silver	19 30
Tripoli	Mahbub of 20 piastres	Silver	87 09
Tunis	Piastre of 4 carats	Silver	19 30
Turkey	Piastre	Gold	04 38
United States of Columbia	Peso	Silver	90 50
Uruguay	Peso	Gold	1 03 00
Venezuela	Peso	Silver	77 73

Where silver is the legal standard and represents the unit of account, its value is reduced to the basis of gold on the assumption that the ratio of 15½ to 1 represents the relative value of silver and gold. The Attorney General decides that it is the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to proclaim each year the result of the Mint Director's assay, and make it the basis of all computations of foreign moneys at our custom houses for the ascertainment of duties.

Lumber Trade of Williamsport.

The Williamsport *Gazette and Bulletin*, publishes a very full report of lumber operations at that place in 1873. The shipments by canal and railroad aggregated 243,462,489 feet—an increase on the trade of 1872 of 44,955,789 feet, and within 26,400,903 feet of the amount shipped in 1871, the heaviest year in the history of the business. The shipments since 1869 amount to over 1,000,000,000 feet. The operations of the boom for a period of twelve years show nearly 1,000,000,000 logs rafted out. measuring nearly 2,000,000,000 of feet, which will serve to exhibit the enormous magnitude of the lumber interest employing the Susquehanna. The manufacturers commence the business of 1874 with a stock on hand of 226,942,276 feet, which is 73,880,223 feet greater than that carried over from 1872. Considering the financial crisis and gen eral depression of business, says the *Gazette and Bulletin*, this is really less than might have been expected two months ago. As a large amount of stock that usual will be cut this winter, the trade of 1874 will not differ much from the past year, if there is a fair resumption of business in the spring, and prices remain about as they have been. And the indications are that there will be no material decline. It is gratifying to note that such a vast element of wealth exists in the shape of lumber that contributes largely to our prosperity at home and reputation abroad, and affords labor and support to many hundreds of thousands of people. It does not seem to be taken into consideration that the value of manufactured lumber—placing it at a moderate estimate—reaches fully six millions of dollars, it can readily be seen that the amount of capital invested by the manufacturers of Williamsport is no very inconsiderable sum. Our lumber traffic is greater than that of any other point east of Michigan, and we have one or two of the largest mills in the world.

The "Commercial."

[From the Noble County (O.) Republican.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is, without doubt, the leading paper of Pennsylvania, and particularly adapted to people of southeastern Ohio, who desire to take a city paper. Had we to do with but one daily journal, we would have no hesitancy about selecting the COMMERCIAL.

[From the Delaware County (Pa.) Republican.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL stands at the head of the newspaper press in the West. It is always well posted in politics, commerce, and the news of the day. Its literary merit and foreign correspondence attention bestowed upon all its departments show that it is in the hands of those who are competent for the position they occupy.

[From the Tuscarawas (O.) Advocate.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is the best paper in Western Pennsylvania.

A FRESH cause of fear from the money panic has been discovered by a missionary of the Sunday School Union. While pursuing his work of forming Sunday schools among the mountains of Carolina, he called at a small cabin, and something was said about the panic. Instantly the old lady of the cabin started up, and in mournful tones said: "Look a here, Mister, I is hearn say dese yer panics is a' spreadin' all 'bout in farren countries. They say it's workin bad in Fidelity, and got clean out of the ignorant simplicity and wants of their followers. They are merely a variety or species of the class so numerous in the country, the men and women to whom all old things seem over old, to whom no new things seem new enough. Fortunately, under the happy economical conditions of the country and the teaching of experience, the great mass of the industrious population are thoroughly imbued with the individual spirit and the rational convictions in which possession and its rights are grounded and intrenched. There are few if any owners of property however insignificant, among us who would not defend it with their life; there are few who hope to own property, not ready with their life to maintain the privilege. Hence noisy reformers, the busy innovators of

MESSAGE

OF

GOV. JOHN F. HARTRANFT,

TO THE

General Assembly of Pennsylvania,

ON

January 7, 1874.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Since your last meeting a grievous public calamity, in the guise of a financial panic, has visited the country, having in its train a series of disasters. The industrial pursuits and monetary interests of the State have become greatly depressed, the wealth of many of her leading capitalists and most public spirited citizens has been wholly swept away, the business of her corporations paralyzed, the machinery of her manufactories arrested, her mineral, iron, oil and other productions greatly depreciated in value, and poverty and want brought to the humble homes of thousands of her honest and industrious citizens, who toil for their daily bread. To remedy these evils under which all our industries are languishing, so far as relief can be administered by legislation, it is barely necessary to suggest, should be the first duty of your honorable bodies—a duty which I feel assured will be undertaken with care and deliberation, invoking to its aid a fair share of humanity and the highest practical wisdom. In any measures looking to this object it will be my pleasure heartily to co-operate.

FINANCES.

It is gratifying to observe that while many of the most substantial securities in the market were more or less depressed during the panic, the finances of the State were unshaken, exhibiting unmistakable evidence of the stability of the State credit. The following statement, show ng their satisfactory condition, will challenge attention:

Debt Redeemed.

during fiscal year ending November 30, 1873:

Six per cent. loan	$1,308,800 00
Five per cent. loan	153,112 46
Refunding certificates	42,760 24
Total	$1,504,672 70

Receipts.

during fiscal year ending November 30, 1873:

Balance in Treasury, November 30, 1872	$1 482,455 61
Receipts	7,076,723 29
Total	$8,559,178 81

Ordinary Expenses.

during fiscal year ending November 30, 1873:

Ordinary expenses	$3,656,326 67
Loans redeemed	1,504,672 70
Interest paid on loans	1,540,029 90
Total	$6,734,027 57
Balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1873	$1,825,151 24

Unfunded Debt.

PUBLIC DEBT.

Funded Debt.

Six per cent. loans	$60,540 580 00
Five per cent. loan	4,974,300 34
Four and a half per cent. loans	87,000 00

Unfunded Debt.

Relief notes in circulation	$ 96,249 00
Interest certificates outstanding	13,042 92
Interest certificates unclaimed	4,448 88
Dom stic creditors' certificates	44 67
Chambersburg certificates outstanding	84,329 64
Chambersburg certificates unclaimed	287 22
	$ 198,887 93
Total public debt, November 30, 1873	$65,798,821 94

Bonds in Sinking Fund.

Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company	$ 5,700,000 00
Bonds of the Allegheny Valley Railroad Co	3,500,000 00
	$ 9,20,,000 00
Cash in Treasury November 30, 1873	1,825,151 24
	$11,025,151 24
Indebtedness unprovided for	$14,773,670 70

In 1874 the receipts from all sources will be $1,500,000 less than the receipts of 1873, while the expenditures will not be diminished. This loss of revenue is largely due to the repeal of taxes bearing heavily upon the corporations of the Commonwealth, and partly to the prostration of business. The appropriations in 1875 will be larger than those of 1874, but the expenditures will be greater, owing to the additional outlay necessary for schools, legislature and Judiciary, under the new Constitution, which will then be in full force. Notwithstanding this circumstance there will be a considerable surplus in expenditures, it is hoped and believed, that by the most rigid economy in every branch of the government and moderate appropriations, the balance in the future will be sufficient to meet all the demands on the Treasury, and leave a balance to reduce the indebtedness of the State, as provided by the Constitution. I am in accord with those who believe as the debt decreases there should be a corresponding relief afforded to those interests that bear the burden of taxation; but at this juncture I would regard any further reduction as unwise and inexpedient. In our list of taxes, however, may be found some that are unjustly discriminating in their character and subjects," and very unfair in their operation, and I think, therefore, a revision of our tax laws is now desirable if not necessary.

SINKING FUND.

In compliance with the constitutional amendment of 1857, the Legislature in 1858 created a sinking fund for the payment of the interest on the State debt, and for an annual reduction of the principal in a sum not less than $1,000,000 annually, by investment in the securities designated by the amendment, the revenues arising from certain taxes were assigned to this fund. In that year, the amount necessary to pay the interest on the debt has been punctually paid, and the portion of principal redeemed instead of the million dollars has grown from the inconsiderable sum of one to two millions per year. The reason is a simple one. The securities set apart for the sinking fund, by the natural growth of those special taxes, and the increase of the value of others, yield an amount required to be paid on account of its arrear, by reason of the rapid decrease of the public debt, each year became greater and greater, so that the annual credits to the sinking fund have swollen to proportions never contemplated by the original friends of the measure. As an illustration, it is simply necessary to say, that the revenues flowing to this fund were last year over three millions—the income of the State, or $3,500,000, while only $1,500,000 were required to pay the interest on the debt. In the meantime, the annual revenues allotted for general purposes have been less than the amount of the sinking fund, by nearly $2,000,000, and the Legislature never having made provision for the deficiency by a resumption of the taxes, it has become necessary for the Treasurer to pay the deficiencies of appropriations out of the funds properly due to the sinking fund or surplus revenue. This condition of affairs places the Sinking Fund Commissioners in an unfortunate position, from which it is manifestly the duty of the Legislature to relieve them.

THE CENTENNIAL.

The progress of the work of preparations for the Centennial is realizing fully the expectations of our people. The distinguished gentlemen charged with the details of this vast undertaking are striving zealously, with great judgment and industry, to perfect all the arrangements in a manner commensurate with the important and conspicuous position our Republic occupies among the nations of the earth. A becoming regard for the dignity and honor of the country, we can hope, will now induce the general government, and all the States, to extend to the Commission such material aid as will secure this enterprise a success commensurate with its merits. The city of Philadelphia, whose generosity, in different ways, in behalf of the Centennial, has elicited commendation from all quarters, deserves the commission an eligible site in the midst of her beautiful parks, wherein the proposed exhibition, or exhibition, the plans of which have been adopted, are to be erected. This site was formally transferred and dedicated to the special uses on the 4th of July, in the presence of a large concourse of citizens. Upon that occasion a proclamation of the President was made, wherein the exhibition and exhibitors were commended to the people of the United States, and a cordial invitation extended to all nations to be pleased take part therein.

With this act the project became a national one, and co-operation was invited and expected from the w. ole nation; and it is a pleasure to observe that the different States and Territories are earnestly moving with a view to such contributions as will place the exhibition not only upon a worthy financial basis, but make it a successful exhibition of their various resources and industries. To stamp the Centennial, however, with the character of a national enterprise, it must receive assistance direct and substantial from the national government. Congress must set the seal of its approbation upon the work of the Commission, and manifest not only an interest in this great event, but a desire for a termination that in its proportions and grandeur the American Exposition shall eclipse all those which have preceded it in Europe, and the development of our resources, the expansion of our grand railway system, and the increased employment of the arts and sciences in all the avenues of our industry surpass those of the old world.

Pennsylvania must not neglect this opportunity for the display of her rich, varied and inexhaustable products, nor relax her efforts to secure contribution from every mechanic to which indifference or distrust may expose it. It is true her contributions have been large, but she must remember that the nation has signally honored her people by designating her metropolis as the place for the proposed celebration, and she must show by renewed exertions that she appreciates the distinction.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Pursuant to the act of the General Assembly, approved June 2, A. D. 1871, the people, by a large majority, voted in favor or calling a Convention to amend the Constitution, which amendment was duly the General Assembly, by an act approved April 11, 1873, provided for the calling of such Convention in compliance with its provisions the delegates elected thereto a-sembled at the State capital, at Harrisburg, on the second Tuesday of November, 1873, and adjourned *sine die* on Saturday, December 27, 1873. The Constitution adopted by the Convention was submitted to the qualified voters of the Commonwealth, on the third Tuesday of December, 1873, and by a proclamation of the Governor, issued on the 10th ultimo of the Secretary of this Commonwealth, it appears 253,560 votes were given for, and 109,198 votes against the new Constitution.

In the schedule of the new Constitution it is provided that it shall take effect on the first day of January, 1874; in the act calling the Convention it is provided that the returns of the votes cast for and against the new Constitution shall be duly canvassed, counted and published as the returns for Governor are now by law counted and published," and when so ascertained and certified, "the Governor shall declare by proclamation the result of the election." The Constitution, however, is silent as to the manner in which the returns of every election shall be sealed up and transmitted to the seat of government, and the Secretary of the Commonwealth, who shall open and publish them in presence of the members of both Houses of the General Assembly.

The Constitutional Convention, the last day of its session, passed the following preamble and resolution:

"WHEREAS, It appears by the returns of election in the several counties, held on the second Tuesday, the 16th day of December, A. D. 1873, that the new Constitution has been adopted by a majority of one hundred and forty-four thousand and ninety-eight and sixty-two; therefore,

Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, be informed by the President of the Convention of the result, and that he be respectfully requested to issue his proclamation thereof without delay."

I respectfully call your attention thereto, that there may be no unnecessary delay in the counting of the vote cast for and against the new Constitution, and that I may, in conformity with the provisions of the act calling the Convention, and in compliance with the resolution of the Convention, promptly issue the proper proclamation.

The new Constitution having been approved by a very decided majority of the people, it is expected that all citizens will yield to it a cheerful acquiescence in its behests, and unite to strictly and faithfully enforce its provisions.

As each day's experience reveals the methods of administration, the conviction grows stronger in my mind that a good general law, conferring upon courts upon written laws as upon the disposition of the people to comply with the demands of the laws, and the deportation of those charged with the duty of them to see that their mandates are enforced. Reform, it will be conceded, cannot be attained by mere constitutional enactment, nor by surrounding offices and trusts with additional restraints.

The world is history, and for centuries ages, has shown that no code of laws, however comprehensive or restrictive, will prevent bad men from getting upon overstepping their bounds; and wise and necessary as the provisions of the new Constitution may be, they will prove but a dead letter unless sustained by a strong, active, h aithful and intelligent sentiment that will interest itself in public affairs. I will, therefore, in my action that integrity and fitness are essential qualifications for office, unless when the people themselves shall have no personal interest in the selected. It is the indifference and inattention of elected persons to the honorable discharge of duties with nominations and elections, that despoil the law of its sanctity and authority, and bring into it the disregard of its requirements. Men do not fulfill the obligations of citizenship by merely enjoying the privileges it confers. They perform but a part of their whole duty to the State, every citizen should actively engage in political concerns when the people are curring elections invoke his attention and interference. In our system of government every man entitled to vote is invested with a grave public trust, and if, through indifference or neglect, he fails to discharge the sacred duties it imposes, he is almost as culpable as the other who deliberately violates the law. With this new departure in our organic law let there also be an accompanying resolution on the part of all good citizens that they will attend diligently and conscientiously to the selection of men for offices whose dignity of character and intelligence will be an adequate guaranty that the new Constitution will be safe in their keeping.

Upon every executive officer devolves a duty involving great care and labor, and which if discharged, as I believe it will be, with a proper regard for the public interest, will redound to his credit and honor. To you is committed the important trust of modifying existing regulations into conformity with the charge about to be inaugurated in the fundamental law of the State. Bring to the performance of this high and responsible duty all the wisdom you possess, divest yourselves of all selfish considerations, devote time and thought to the work, and with the new Constitution as your constant guide, build up a good and symmetrical system of laws, and the future for us, as a people, is capable of the State forward upon her future career, clothed with ample power to extend her enterprise, and fulfill her great destiny.

To another consideration I invite public attention. All special enactments are not necessarily bad laws, while it may be equally accepted as true that all general enactments are not good laws. I enjoin upon the people of the whole S ate increased vigilance in their watch over all legislation. Attempts will doubtless be made to obtain special objects through the instrumentality of general laws, which, while they may benefit one interest or locality, might prove very oppressive to others. Let every citizen who has the interest of the State at heart, lend his assistance to the Legislature and Executive, to detect and frustrate such schemes.

SCHOOLS.

The interesting report of the Superintendent of Common Schools will command your thoughtful attention, because of the important subject of which it treats and the many valuable suggestions it contains. Pennsylvania, it will be observed, is making decided progress in the cause of education, increasing the number of schools, enlarging each year the sphere of instruction, extending the time within which the schools shall remain open, and providing more of the conveniences necessary for the comfort and health of schoolars and teachers. For years, in this State, owing to the inadequate pay for teachers of public schools beset and crippled the cause of education, and careful management of the finances has happily dispersed all this mistrust, and our people are now united in the conviction of the utility and benefits of the system. The finances of the State were unshaken, exhibiting unmistakable evidence of the stability of the State credit. The following statement, show ng their satisfactory condition, will challenge attention:

during fiscal year ending November 30, 1873:	
Six per cent. loan	$1,308,800 00
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Total	$1,504,672 70

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With this act the project became a national one, and co-operation was invited and expected from the w. ole nation; and it is a pleasure to observe that the different States and Territories are earnestly moving with a view to such contributions as will place the exhibition not only upon a worthy financial basis, but make it a successful exhibition of their various resources and industries. To stamp the Centennial, however, with the character of a national enterprise, it must receive assistance direct and substantial from the national government. Congress must set the seal of its approbation upon the work of the Commission, and manifest not only an interest in this great event, but a desire for a termination that in its proportions and grandeur the American Exposition shall eclipse all those which have preceded it in Europe, and the development of our resources, the expansion of our grand railway system, and the increased employment of the arts and sciences in all the avenues of our industry surpass those of the old world.

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In the schedule of the new Constitution it is provided that it shall take effect on the first day of January, 1874; in the act calling the Convention it is provided that the returns of the votes cast for and against the new Constitution shall be duly canvassed, counted and published as the returns for Governor are now by law counted and published," and when so ascertained and certified, "the Governor shall declare by proclamation the result of the election." The Constitution, however, is silent as to the manner in which the returns of every election shall be sealed up and transmitted to the seat of government, and the Secretary of the Commonwealth, who shall open and publish them in presence of the members of both Houses of the General Assembly.

The Constitutional Convention, the last day of its session, passed the following preamble and resolution:

"WHEREAS, It appears by the returns of election in the several counties, held on the second Tuesday, the 16th day of December, A. D. 1873, that the new Constitution has been adopted by a majority of one hundred and forty-four thousand and ninety-eight and sixty-two; therefore,

Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, be informed by the President of the Convention of the result, and that he be respectfully requested to issue his proclamation thereof without delay."

I respectfully call your attention thereto, that there may be no unnecessary delay in the counting of the vote cast for and against the new Constitution, and that I may, in conformity with the provisions of the act calling the Convention, and in compliance with the resolution of the Convention, promptly issue the proper proclamation.

The new Constitution having been approved by a very decided majority of the people, it is expected that all citizens will yield to it a cheerful acquiescence in its behests, and unite to strictly and faithfully enforce its provisions.

As each day's experience reveals the methods of administration, the conviction grows stronger in my mind that a good general law, conferring upon courts upon written laws as upon the disposition of the people to comply with the demands of the laws, and the deportation of those charged with the duty of them to see that their mandates are enforced. Reform, it will be conceded, cannot be attained by mere constitutional enactment, nor by surrounding offices and trusts with additional restraints.

The world is history, and for centuries ages, has shown that no code of laws, however comprehensive or restrict

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, January 10, 1874.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 6, 1874.

The Nomination of Caleb Cushing

as Minister to Spain was to-day confirmed by the Senate, without the usual formality of a reference to the Committee on Foreign Relations. This flattering recognition of the abilities of Mr. Cushing is highly applauded in diplomatic and official circles.

The Change of Government in Spain

has in a great measure obviated the necessity of haste in his departure, yet he will leave during the present month. One of the strongest points of opposition to Castelar in the minds of the Spanish people was that he was friendly towards the United States. The present government is not likely to commit itself hastily to any negotiations which might bring it in the same disfavor. The opinion here is that the Spanish Republic is at an end.

Reduction of the Army.

The House Military Committee to-day again considered the subject of army reduction. General Sherman positively objected to any such procedure. He said that the argument that the army was in part used to protect surveying parties, was in a great degree misinterpreted. No great force had been used for that purpose, except at the request of the Secretary of War to protect parties who were engaged in sections of the country most liable to Indian depredations. A member of the committee asked him what he thought of colored troops. He replied that the two regiments of colored troops now in the service had fulfilled all the military duties required of them, and had shown their valor in numerous frontier conflicts.

The Speech of Mr. Elliott,

a colored, or, more correctly, jet black Representative from South Carolina, in the House to-day, on the Civil Rights bill, was an unquestionably fine effort. There was a large attendance in the galleries. Among those on the floor were General Sherman, Bishop Simpson and a number of Senators, among whom was Senator Sumner. When he made his allusion to A. H. Stephens's presence in the House as an evidence of the magnanimity of the United States, there was great applause on the floor and in the galleries.

Internal Revenue Receipts.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue to-day stated that the revenues from internal taxes during the present month would reach the figures previous to the panic. His returns thus early in the month, foot up two and one-half millions, and the total for the year to date, fifty and a quarter millions. This is a quarter of a million over one-half the estimate for the year, with six months, lacking seven days, to run. As trade is daily improving, the Commissioner feels more confident than ever that the receipts of his office will run above the estimated revenue.

The Customs.

In the office of the Commissioner of Customs, the showing, though not equally flattering, is still improving. The Commissioner Douglas remarked, "the people who use imported goods and wines are generally hit hard by panics and are slow to recover, but consumers of whisky and tobacco are not troubled that way."

The Vacant Deputy Commissionership.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue to-day officially notified the Secretary of the Treasury of the vacancy in the First Deputy Commissionership, occasioned by the death of General Sweet. As this appointment comes under the Civil Service rules, there will be an examination in the Bureau for promotion to the post. No appointment, under the rules, can be made except of a successful competitor in the office. Mr. Rogers, of Erie, the Second Deputy, will compete for the place.

The House Committee on Appropriations

had no meeting to-day, the sub-committee employing the time in perfecting the revision of the estimates. The committee will report a reduction of two millions in the estimates for fortifications and other works of defense, which will leave one million six hundred thousand less than was appropriated for the present year. The total reduction made by the committee thus far, foot up: Army, four millions; navy, three millions; fortifications, two millions; total, nine millions. The committee are now sanguine that they can reduce the total estimates twenty-five millions.

Railroad Commissioner Bill.

The bill providing for the appointment of a Commissioner to regulate freight, tariff on railroads is very objectionable to the railroad party in Congress, as they allege that it will be the means of diverting investments in railroad property. It will destroy that healthful competition which they claim is the vital principle of trade. The bill having been reconsidered, will be modified. It was originally framed solely in the interest of the Grangers. It is possible that the bill will pass in the House, but it is extremely doubtful in the Senate.

The Pennsylvania Senatorial Question

is receiving considerable attention in Congressional and official circles. The general impression is that, under the act of Congress and the laws of Pennsylvania, the Legislature must decide before January 20 what action shall be taken, otherwise the election must be by the present Legislature.

Texas Political Affairs.

The Attorney General denies that he has given assurances to any parties in Texas of any interference in the political affairs of that State. He has had some informal conversation on the subject, but will express no opinion until the question is officially before him.

Freedman's Bureau Irregularities.

In reply to the charges of mis-appropriation of funds of the Freedman's Bureau, Mr. Balloch says that the investments in government securities contrary to law, were made by General Howard's orders. This, the Secretary of War says, was in violation of the Thirty-ninth Article of War.

Maryland and Virginia Senatorships.

Information received here to-day, states very positively that Governor Pinkney White will receive the Senatorship from Maryland, and R. M. T. Hunter that from Virginia.

THE REFORM SCHOOL.

Annual Meeting—Election of Officers.

The annual meeting of the contributors to the Pennsylvania Reform School (late House of Refuge), was held at the office of the latter, corner Fourth avenue and Market street, at ten o'clock yesterday.

Superintendent Rev. R. N. Avery, presented the twentieth annual report to the managers of the Reform School, for the year ending December 23, 1873, of which the following is an abstract:

Number of inmates December 24, 1872, 256; received in 1873, 151; discharged in 1873, 123; remaining December 23, 1873, 284. Of those received during the year, 129 were committed, 8 were returned, having been indentured; 4 returned voluntarily, and 11 were arrested and returned. Of those discharged, 6 were by indenture, 47 definitely, 4 as unfit subjects, 50 on parole, 3 died, and 5 escaped. Of the number committed, 80 were from Allegheny county.

The net proceeds of labor done by the boys during the past year is estimated at $8[illegible] 87.

During the year there has been but little sickness, and for the last six months they have been almost entirely free from it. Three deaths have occurred during the year from typhoid and malaria fevers.

The boys occupying the main building have been employed in the manufacture of whips and brooms on contract, and in the manufacture of shoes for the use of the institution. The amount realized from labor is slightly in advance of last year. The small boys, who occupy a family building on the premises, have been employed in knitting, and though no revenue has been derived from their labor, considerable expenses has been saved the institution. The girls have been employed in the usual domestic duties, and in the sewing department. All the cooking, washing, ironing, mending, and sewing for our large family is done by the female inmates.

The schools of the male and female departments have been in regular session during the year. They are thoroughly graded, and the course of study does not differ materially from that usually pursued in our public schools.

While all the necessary supplies for the health and comfort of the children have been freely furnished during the year, the expenses are less than they have been in most of the reformatory institutions in the country.

In his concluding remarks, the Superintendent says: From what has been said in this and previous reports it will be readily seen that the discipline and instruction of the children are very simple. They are trained to habits of order and industry. Everything is avoided that might accustom them to wants which their future position in life will be unlikely to gratify, and nothing is withheld which will add to their comfort, or promote their moral and intellectual welfare. Their meals are wholesome, but very plain; their beds are clean and [illegible], but filled with straw; and their clothing is warm and durable, but of the plainest character, and of coarse texture.

OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: John Phillips, President; Thomas J. Bigham, Vice President, James B. D. Meeds, Secretary, and the managers, A. W. Alexander, B. L. Fahnestock, G. L. Gillespie, Henry Irwin, Jonathan Leuz, John E. Parke, William Rinehart, James Schoonmaker, William B. Scaife, J. B. Sweitzer, and Thomas Wightman.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

The Liquor and Anti-Liquor Interests at Work.

It is stated that the Liquor Leagues of the State intend making a combined effort to secure, at the present session of the Legislature, the repeal of all prohibitory and limitary laws, and the substitution of a general law regulating the sale of liquors. It is also asserted by those interested in the temperance cause that the liquor men will also attempt to secure the repeal of the local option law. This information has caused a flurry among the advocates of temperance, and they have entered upon a very vigorous course of action, in this county at least. The form of a remonstrance or petition has been prepared, and is now being printed, in which the Legislature will be asked not to repeal any existing laws restricting the sale of liquors, and also to pass a prohibitory law for the whole State, to take effect on and after the third Friday in March, 1876. The latter proposition is made so as to give the liquor dealers ample time to wind up their business, and remove the objection which was so potently urged when the vote was taken on Local Option last March, namely: that if the people voted in favor of no license the liquor dealers would be ruined financially, by the destruction of their business and the loss of their capital. When the petitions are ready they will be circulated for signatures, and an active canvass inaugurated. There has been as yet, no authorized statement as to the intentions of the liquor dealers; but the temperance men are sounding the alarm.

EXECUTIVE PARDONS.

List of Pardons Granted in Allegheny and Other Western Counties.

Accompanying the message of Governor Hartranft, is the pardon report for the year ending November 30th, 1873. The whole number of pardons granted up to that date was forty-five, showing a very large increase over previous years. The whole number of pardons granted from 1781 to 1872—the close of Governor Geary's term—was 11,968, or a yearly average of 146. The yearly average of Governor Curtin was 121, and that of Governor Geary 71. It will be seen that Governor Hartranft, during his first year, has granted but two-thirds the average of Governor Geary. Following are the cases from Allegheny and other western counties:

Thomas Dunn, Observation, November 29, 1872, Sentence, eight months in the Allegheny workhouse. Pardoned March 27, 1873.

Recommended by Hon. Miles S. Humphreys, Hon. J. W. Ballentine, E. A. Montooth, A. L. Pearson, W. D. Moore, Esq., M. Swartzweider, Esq., and over one hundred other citizens of Allegheny county, including a number of the members of the bar and county officers.

Reasons: He is an illiterate man, and the offence committed while under the influence of liquor, the obscene piece of printing being furnished him while in that state; by occupation a teamster, with a wife and two children depending solely upon him for support.

Mack Dixon, Westmoreland county, Aggravated assault and battery, February 11, 1873. Sentence, six months in the county jail. Pardoned April 18.

Recommended by Hon. M. P. McClanahan, Associate Judge; by the County Commissioners, Hugh Ryan and others; by Alexander Negley, Esq., High Sheriff; John Gross, Esq., clerk, and all the county officers; James E. Clarke, A. A. Stewart, H. D. Foster, and almost the entire bar in the said county; J. R. McAfee, Esq., J. C. Snodgrass, and a large majority of the respectable and substantial citizens of Greensburg.

Reasons:—He is only seventeen years of age, and has suffered enough for his execrable behavior; the great affliction of a very respectable father and worthy sisters, and with the punishment already suffered, a proper subject for executive clemency.

John Graham, Allegheny county, Receiving stolen goods. December 14, 1872. Sentence, one year in the Allegheny county Workhouse. Pardoned April 24, 1873.

Recommended by Hons. James L. Graham and M. S. Humphreys, of the Senate of Pennsylvania; Hon. H. H. McCormick, Hon. Thos. M. Marshall, Wm. Phillips; Thos. M. Bayne, Esq., district attorney; W. C. Moreland, attorney for the prosecutors.

Reasons.—The ends of public justice have been subserved by the punishment inflicted, and his pardon an act of charity on account of the serious distress of his family, helpless by reason of his imprisonment.

Harry Redpath, Allegheny county, Fornication and Bastardy. April 5, 1873 Sentenced *pro formâ*. Pardoned May 19th.

Recommended by John H. Stewart, H. B. Swope, Esq., Jared M. Brush, Thos. H. Bigelow, Hon. H. D. McCreight, Hon. Wm. Elliott, and many others including A. W. Smith, warden of the Allegheny county jail.

Reasons:—The said Redpath is a mere youth of only sixteen years of age, of good reputation; that there were good reasons to believe the innocent of the crime charged; and that the prosecutrix is of such character as to be unworthy of belief, and was probably the seducer of the boy. Also, uniform good conduct while in prison.

Washington Iseit, Blair county, Rape, Sentenced February 1, 1868, seven years and nine months in the Western Penitentiary. Pardoned June 30th, 1873.

Reasons:—Certificate of the late Hon. George Taylor President Judge of the Twenty-fourth judicial district, that he learned from one of the jurors who convicted the said Iseit, that the verdict was arrived at by casting lots and therefore he should be pardoned; certificate of Hon. John Dean, (then District Attorney) now President Judge of the Twenty-fourth judicial District, that he was informed by two of the jurors who tried the said Iseit, that after being out many hours and having failed to agree, they by common consent determined their verdict, and that it was a case depending Executive clemency for relief.

Charles W. Wright, Blair county. Murder of the Second Degree. Sentence, January 27, 1872, five years and six months in the Western Penitentiary. Pardoned June 27, 1873.

Recommended by Hon. George W. Patton and Hon. Joseph Irwin, Associate Judges of Blair county; by Thomas F. Donelly, Samuel Black, A. K. Reamer, and six others of the jury convicting him; by Hon. John A. Lemon, B. L. Hewit, Esq., G. C. Statler, H. B. Hunt, Esq., and many other citizens of Hollidaysburg; by Hiss Excellency Conrad Baker, Governor of the State of Indiana, Samuel S. Blair, Esq., and Hon. Milton Speer, Esq., Hon. Jno. Scarlet, D. W. H. Boyle, M. D., John McCandless, M. D., Wm. S. Stenger, Esq., Thad. M. Mahon, T. G. Kennedy, Jacob Heyser, F. S. Stumbaugh, Hastings Gehr, James I. Scott, Hon. John McD. Stamps, Hon. John Stewart, Wm. McLelan, Esq., and many other prominent citizens of Franklin county.

Reasons:—The excellent character borne by the prisoner before the unfortunate or urreone took place, his exemplary conduct since his confinement, and sincere sorrow for his offense; because he was the support, to a great extent, of his widowed mother of great respectability and devoted piety; Hon. James A. Logan's certificate that there were mitigating circumstances about the case, and that he did not interpose any objections to the exercise of Executive clemency in his case; the long suffering health of his mother, and that his further confinement may be the cause of her death.

John Jones, Allegheny county, Larceny. Sentence, September 6, 1862, one year and eight months in the Western Penitentiary. Pardoned July 1, 1873.

Recommended by W. Phillips, Jas. Thomas Bigelow, Esq., Hons. Miles S. Humphreys, James I. Graham, George H. Anderson, A. J. Wainwright; H. H. McCormick, Hyde K. Sample, J. W. Ballantine, J. D. Ramsey, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives; Thomas M. Bayne, District Attorney, and others.

Reasons:—Former good character, a wife and two small children depending upon the charities of friends during his imprisonment; the punishment already inflicted sufficient.

James Harris, Mercer county, Assault and battery. Sentence January 14, 1873, one year in the Mercer county jail. Pardoned July 2, 1873.

Recommended by S. H. Miller, Esq., S. B. Stoneman, Wm. E. McClure, Esq., Alexander Negley, Esq., John P. Hoagland, George Tanner, William Jack; J. W. Ballentine, Esq., and many other citizens of Allegheny; Thomas M. Bayne, District Attorney, and others.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1874.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 8th, July 19th and September 26th 1872, and March 1st, 1873.

IF MR. BUCKALEW had not been interfered with, he would have proposed a series of twenty-three amendments to our new Constitution, to be voted upon by the people on the third Tuesday of February next. It is altogether probable that that instrument will before long come to resemble Pat's coat, in that the original cloth cannot be seen for the patches.

THE Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Philadelphia, which is the fiscal agent of the Commonwealth, gives notice to holders of ten thousand dollars and under of the 5-10 years of six per cent. State loan known as the first series, that interest on such loans will cease on the last day of April next, and that the loan, with accrued interest, will be redeemed forthwith on presentation at that bank.

ALL the indications are to the effect that our trade with Europe for the remaining portion of the winter will be unusually brisk; produce, in particular, being greatly needed there. New York papers state that supplies from the West are coming forward in excess of any previous season, the railroads having their carrying capacity fairly strained in the transportation of provisions and breadstuffs.

AS WILL be seen by reference to our correspondence from Harrisburg, the Supreme Court is to be called upon by the Legislature to untangle the knotty snarls of the new Constitution. The questions to be submitted to our court of last resort are numerous; and that august body will have no easy task in explaining away the too frequent contradictions of our recently adopted fundamental law.

UNDER the laws of Congress it is a crime to obstruct trains carrying the United States mails, punishable with imprisonment in the penitentiary. The Postmaster General has given instructions to proceed at once against all persons who have obstructed the mails during the present engineers' strike. Some of them will find that the consequences are considerably graver than was at first imagined.

THE aggregate grain receipts at the Western lake ports during the past year were 173,520,998 bushels, including flour reduced to bushels, which shows a large and steady increase over former years. In the year 1870 the receipts at the same ports amounted to 111,281,749 bushels; in 1871, 130,023,953 bushels, and in 1872, 144,466,536 bushels. Sixty-six per cent. of these receipts passed to the seaboard via Buffalo.

SUPPOSING it to be true, as an obsequious Washington correspondent asserts, that General BUTLER is "an orator of wonderful power, with eloquence as keen as a Damascus blade," does that make him any the less a demagogue? Of a far greater orator than BUTLER it is written:

> "His tongue
> Dropp'd manna, and could make the worse appear
> The better reason, to perplex and dash
> Maturest counsels."

The remainder of the description may be found in MILTON'S "Paradise Lost."

THE United States Senatorial race in Virginia is an uncommonly lively one. There are some twelve or fifteen aspirants, and of them it is generally thought that ex-Senator R. M. T. HUNTER stands the best chance. He is one of the men who helped to delude the South into treason and rebellion, and who, having learned nothing, and regarding nothing as settled by the war, maintains that the general government ought to pay the ex-slaveholders four hundred millions of dollars as compensation for the emancipation of their slaves. His value as a legislator may therefore be inferred.

AN IMPORTANT decision has just been rendered by the United States Circuit Court in St. Louis, in a case in which an assignee in bankruptcy disputed possession of a number of bank shares belonging to the bankrupt, but held by the bank for discounts made to him. The court decided in favor of the bank; holding that money loaned with security taken *in present* does not make the security taken a preference contrary to the provisions of the bankrupt act. It is not a security for past indebtedness, but for money advanced at the time. The decision is of general interest.

THE life insurance of our country is larger than in all the other nations of the globe, which, in the aggregate, amount to $2,523,000,000, which is $227,625,000 less than the amount credited to the United States. This is not a bad test of the standard of our material civilization. In this connection it may be stated that the past year has been a very prosperous one for fire insurance companies. Losses have been comparatively small since the Chicago and Boston fires. Furthermore, those disastrous conflagrations warranted the companies in advancing their rates, while, at the same time, they stimulated property owners generally to insure their buildings.

A HEAVY falling off in our exports has heretofore been regarded as certain with the advent of the ensuing spring. In consequence, however, of the carrying of large stocks of cotton, produce and other export materials, into the present year, the continued activity of our export trade now seems beyond peradventure. All the indications of the time are that the balance of trade will continue to rule in our favor, which is a matter for general gratulation; aside from which fact, the evidences of a lively spring prospect for general business are already at hand, and it is quite plain that the Treasury Secretary's estimate of $15,000,000 customs collections for the current month is not the birth of mere enthusiasm.

THE real difficulty with respect to Congressional economy is, that nearly every member has a pet scheme of his own, and that combinations are apt to be formed for the purpose of carrying a number of them together, or one by one. The amount now specifically asked by bills introduced, referred to committees and printed, is nearly twice the deficiency estimated by Secretary RICHARDSON for the year; enough to swallow up his forty-two millions of taxation and all probable reductions of expenditures besides. The people and the press must watch these schemes with lynx-eyed vigilance, and oppose them at every step of their progress, unless the country is willing to submit its shoulders to the imposition of fresh burdens of taxation.

THE flow of currency is becoming steady and ample again, and with it the whole circle of industrial enterprises begins to exhibit signs of re-awakening activity which, in the end, must largely, if not wholly, compensate for the sudden stagnation imposed by the panic. The confidence of the people is becoming restored; the money is nearly back from the grain crop; it is coming in all the time from the cotton crop, and the people who have been hoarding greenbacks are disbursing them out of will or necessity. The old year was pregnant with lessons of every nature, but it has passed away, and the interest of the people is not with the dead but with the living time. The principal dangers to be guarded against are speculation and inflation.

PERHAPS of all the lessons which the past year has taught, the warning it gave people who wish to invest their surplus savings to beware of new railroad schemes, is the most valuable. Railroad extension had gone on for years in undeveloped portions of the country, and money had been raised in the United States and in Europe to feed the ever-craving system everywhere. But numbers of the roads did not pay, and probably many of them never will. The entire number of railroads, old and new, at present in default, is stated to be one hundred and fifteen, representing an indebtedness on interest account of more than twenty-seven million dollars. In the future these enterprises will have to be remarkably promising to induce people to invest money in them.

THE statistics in the St. Louis *Republican's* annual review of the past year, show a most gratifying progress in the manufacture of iron in the State of Missouri, an industry for which it possesses peculiar advantages. The extraordinary progress made will be seen by comparing the last year with 1870, in which year the United States census reported in Missouri fifteen blast furnaces, employing a capital of $1,914,000 and yielding a product of $586,266. In 1873 it had twelve establishments, with eighteen furnaces, $5,783,000 capital, employing 2,421 hands, paying $1,089,300 wages, and yielding 100,000 tons of pig iron, valued at $4,000,000, and 120,000 tons of rails, valued at $1,008,000, making a total product for the year of $5,508,000. Thus in three years the capital employed in iron and rail making has trebled, the number of hands has more than doubled, and the product has been increased four-fold. The *Republican* believes that by the end of the present decade, Missouri will be one of the leading iron States of the Union.

WE ARE by no means blind to the defects and shortcomings of the colored race; but when, in the beginning of the year of grace 1874, we find a Bourbon paper gravely essaying to prove that their emancipation and enfranchisement have proved failures, it may not be amiss to remind that sheet, and all others of its kidney, that, notwithstanding but a few years have elapsed since the negroes started out in the race of freedom, with nothing but their hands and with the bitterest prejudices against them that the world ever knew, yet numbers among them have sprung of their own free will and purpose from the degradation of slavery and its consequences, to the bar, the pulpit, the lecture desk, the professor's chair, the counting room, and that their people, generally, are making rapid strides in the acquisition of property and education, and have, upon the whole, made as good a record since their emancipation as any other class of citizens, similarly circumstanced, would have been likely to do. Shame on these detestable Bourbon race-animosities.

SPANISH REVOLUTION.

No one, we suppose, has been much surprised by the dispatches from Madrid, which report the overthrow of the CASTELAR government. Nobody was foolish enough to expect either sense or patriotism from a majority of the Cortes. Perhaps the only reason for surprise in the premises is that so large a number, one hundred out of two hundred and twenty, were willing to support and continue in power a ruler who had really proved himself, in some good measure at least, equal to the difficulties and trials of the position. At this writing, the events reported seem to indicate the near approach of the condition in Spain, for some months now foreseen as inevitable—the substitution of a strict military rule for the dictatorship which has lately existed. No doubt, the change has been anticipated by CASTELAR himself and his friends. In dissolving the Cortes and occupying their palace with troops, General PAVIA appears to have acted with the late dictator's full concurrence and probably by his advice. The steps taken were ordinary resources in Spain against the reign of anarchy and bloodshed. In the new government, of which its military organizer refused to become a part, all parties, except the Carlists and Intransigentes now in revolt, are represented.

For some time it has been understood that in case of another change in the government SERRANO would be the prominent man, and he is the chief of the new Ministry. He has been in troubled waters nearly all his life. His father was Field-Marshal SERRANO, conspicuous in the Peninsular war. Born in 1810, near Cadiz, whither his family had fled to escape the French, he was only twelve years old when he entered on his military career. At the age of fifteen he was commissioned as a lieutenant. On the death of FERDINAND VII in 1833, SERRANO took the side of Queen ISABELLA then a minor, and in the course of the seven years' struggle against the Pretender, *Don Carlos*, he greatly distinguished himself by bravery and good conduct in the position of adjutant to the successive generals who commanded the forces in Aragon. By services rendered in the battles at Morella, Segura and Hos de Villavieja, he acquired the rank of a brigadier, and in 1840 he became commander-in-chief in Barcelona. While in this position he joined ESPARTERO, who at the head of the Liberal party was opposing the influence of Queen MARIA CHRISTINA, and thus SERRANO increased his military rank. As Deputy for Malaga in the Cortes he voted in favor of the Regency of ESPARTERO, and also sustained him in suppressing the revolts instigated by the clergy and other adherents of CHRISTINA. In 1842 he was chief-of-the-staff to the Regent in the expedition against Barcelona. As a member of the Cortes, SERRANO succeeded in establishing a worthy reputation for a sort of Liberalism as well as for sagacity, and at length became Minister of War. The Cortes having been dissolved by ESPARTERO, and insurrection having broken out in different parts of the country, SERRANO fled in disguise to Barcelona, where he put himself at the head of the revolutionary junta, and issued a decree deposing the Regent. After the downfall of ESPARTERO, and when NARVAEZ had taken possession of the capital in 1843, SERRANO again for a while became Minister of War, and two years later he was made a Senator by Queen ISABELLA. Having then occupied a place in several successive cabinets, his sympathy, real or pretended, with Liberalism rendered him an object of suspicion and dislike to the Conservative party, and he joined the revolutionary movement of 1854. Under the ESPARTERO-O'DONNELL ministry he played a conspicuous part, first as Director General of Artillery, and then as Governor of New Castile. Having labored again for the overthrow of ESPARTERO and having rendered valuable service in suppressing a popular rising which was the consequence, he received additional honors as his reward. Among the rest, he was made Ambassador at Paris, a post which he held a good while, and then he was sent as Governor to Cuba. While there, about 1862, unless we are mistaken, he made a serious attempt to recover San Domingo for Spain; an attempt which utterly failed, but which at Madrid was thought so praiseworthy that its author was speedily made Duke de la Torre and a Grandee of Spain of the first class. After returning home he held for a time the place of Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1865 he joined O'DONNELL, who had again taken in hand the control of the government, and who rewarded his adherent with the Presidency of the Senate. Through PRIM's revolutionary attempt in 1866 O'DONNELL lost the confidence of the court and he and his friends had to give place to the Ministry of NARVAEZ. SERRANO then went abroad on leave of absence, but returned in time to take his seat as President of the Senate at the next opening of the Cortes. The meeting having been postponed by the government beyond the time fixed or allowed by law, a large number of the opposition drew up a protest which SERRANO, President of the Senate, and the President of the House of Deputies were to lay before the Queen. But the government interposed to prevent this act of interference with its absolute will, by arresting and imprisoning not only the two Presidents but nearly all the signers of the protest. SERRANO, after a few weeks' confinement, was released, with his popularity considerably increased. His more recent fortunes, his activity in the revolution which soon followed, his ministry, his intrigues, etc., may be supposed too well known to require repetition. At present, the chief point of interest is the fact that Spain is once more in the hands of one of those old fashioned military politicians who, with brief exception, have moulded Spanish history for half a century. Prediction or forecast would be idle.

It is, we fancy, hardly to be taken for granted that the new Spanish government will be inclined to carry out the views lately expressed by CASTELAR on the subject of emancipation. Indeed, the probability is that the practical adoption of such views would be fatal to any government, as the mere profession of them, no doubt, had much to do with the overthrow of the late one. We may, therefore, expect that the familiar temporizing policy on the subject will be still continued, and that, in the way of ordinary diplomacy, the Cuban question is as far from settlement as ever. Mr. CUSHING is understood all along to have counted upon the prolongation of the so-called Republic as one vital condition of his prospective success, and it is safe to suppose that to the Washington cabinet the revolution in Spain is a serious disappointment.

A FRENCH FOIBLE JUSTIFIED.

French vanity is a foible at which every one, even the most conceited member of another nationality, thinks he has a right to sneer. English, Germans, Americans, though professing the most unreserved admiration for the many fine qualities of French character, can hardly ever help qualifying their praise with some disparagement on the ground of French arrogance and self-esteem. And the people of "la belle nation" certainly do sufficiently appreciate their own merits. The frankness with which they assert for themselves the leadership of civilization in all its best elements, sometimes betrays an assurance, an entire absence of doubt or misgiving as to the fact, which many foreigners find very hard to bear. Foreigners, however, are liable to forget that they are themselves in a good degree responsible for the presumption of which they complain or at which they laugh. The mere extent to which the French language is learned and spoken beyond its national limits, must appear to the average Frenchman to give some color to his claim of national superiority. The Spaniard or the Hollander who, traveling over Europe, found his native tongue everywhere or almost everywhere used in diplomacy and in cookery, and studied in the better class of schools in which other foreign tongues were neglected, might easily, and probably would conclude that he belonged to a nation of exceptional gifts and graces. Indeed, he might naturally infer that his national superiority was too manifest for doubt or question, and might therefore be proclaimed without indelicacy or conceit. But these supposed conditions were not long ago realities in the experience of the Frenchman, and illusions so agreeable to self-love, as were the results, are not speedily overcome either in persons or nations.

Even at present there is much in the attitude of other nations towards the French well adapted to cherish French vanity and pride. In spite of recent calamities, there is no other nation whose doings and fortunes enlist so much interest from day to day in foreign countries. In spite of the inferiority of Paris in some respects to other cities, it is still the capital which foreigners most affect and frequent. The French language is still the language of the diplomatist and of the superfine cook, and it is more studied now than ever before in foreign schools, notwithstanding the attention given to other tongues.

But the fact which, as much as any other, seems adapted to inspire and nourish in many French minds the fancy of their superiority is the condescension or deference with which other great and leading nations are content to borrow or pilfer their intellectual products. An accusation of the kind is easily make, and if general or sweeping might not be readily refuted. There is, however, we believe, no room for doubt that the dramatic writers of Paris furnish no inconsiderable proportion of whatever entertainment the playgoers of other capitals receive from the theater. Englishmen, Germans, Americans, etc., have so often reproached their respective compatriots with the habit of "appropriation" refered to that we may safely admit, without much abatement, a statement on the subject lately made by a Frenchman, who perceives in the grievance not merely the offense of plagiarism, but a cause of reproach to French character and morals in foreign countries. The portraitures of French manners given in French plays and romances are not, he says, pictures of realities, but fictions elaborated to please a limited class. Habitual vices are described which exist only in the morbid imaginations of the writers; manners are portrayed which have no place, and would not be tolerated, in real life. Yet these books are not only translated, but many of them are "adapted" by the romancers and playwrights of other countries, who pass off the borrowed scenes and characters as illustrations of French social life. As to the theaters, this writer says that there is no longer more than one; from London to Constantinople, and from San Francisco to St. Petersburg, it is the French theater; that is, pieces originally prepared in whole or in part for exhibition in Paris which entertain the public who indulge in such amusement. Suppress SCRIBE, SARDOU, ALEXANDER DUMAS, the younger, and a few more, and you suppress, at the same time, the English theater, the Spanish theater, the Italian theater, and all the theaters of Europe and America. Even, it seems, when an English playwright like CHARLES READE or WILKIE COLLINS has some genius or invention of his own, he is still apt to draw inspiration from French models, and to shed a sinister light on French manners. In fact, the business of "adapting" French plays and novels to a foreign audience is a regular and, one may say, a recognized profession in London, Berlin, Vienna, Madrid, New York, etc., and not only wealth but a sort of fame is sometimes acquired in the somewhat shabby industry. Considering how important a part belongs to mere amusement in the life of great cities, the mistake of the Frenchman who infers national superiority from the agency of his compatriots in the great interest, certainly seems not unnatural.

RAILWAY PROGRESS IN 1873.

The last issue of the *Railway Monitor* furnishes a great mass of interesting statistics concerning the railroads of the United States. From it we learn that the whole railroad mileage in this country is 71,564 miles, with second track and sidings of 13,512 miles, making the total equivalent of single track 85,076 miles. The total number of locomotives is 14,225; of passenger train cars, including baggage, express and smoking cars, 13,725; of freight train cars of all sorts, 358,427; the total capital stock amounts to $2,072,251,954, or about $28,956 per mile; the total floating and funded debt, $1,999,741,597, or $27,957 per mile; and the total cost of railroads and equipments, $3,728,416,958, or about $52,099 per mile. The total gross traffic of railroads for the latest year obtainable was $478,855,597, and the total net receipts, over and above operating expenses, were $174,359,913. These earnings, however, are based on 54,454 miles of road, that being the total for which earnings have been reported, and hence the net income of railroads applicable to the payment of interest and dividends amounted to about $3,201 per mile on the 54,454 miles operated.

During the year just closed, there were built in the United States 4,190 miles of railroad, distributed over the States and Territories as follows:

States & Territories.	Miles, 1872.	Built, 1873.	Miles, 1873.
Maine	791.8	44.0	835.5
New Hampshire	842.7	73.1	895.8
Vermont	577.1	79.4	656.5
Massachusetts	1,625.0	113.7	1,738.7
Rhode Island	163.9	26.9	170.1
Connecticut	889.8	37.7	928.0
New York	6,107.3	358.3	6,462.3
New Jersey	1,343.7	69.5	1,413.2
Pennsylvania	6,432.5	472.9	6,784.4
Delaware	232.7	16.0	238.7
Maryland & Dist. Col.	865.4	69.7	935.1
West Virginia	493.8		493.8
	13,312.5	956.5	14,269.0
Ohio	3,993.8	192.0	4,185.8
Michigan	2,972.7	224.1	3,196.8
Indiana	3,312.4	221.4	3,533.8
Illinois	6,371.7	201.4	6,479.1
Wisconsin	2,028.9	205.7	2,233.9
Minnesota	1,615.6	51.0	1,726.6
Iowa	2,649.7	203.7	2,844.4
Kansas	1,981.8	161.2	2,043.0
Nebraska	1,147.2	113.1	1,260.3
Missouri	2,769.3	129.0	2,898.3
Wyoming Territory	454.0		454.0
Utah Territory	376.4	71.5	447.5
Dakota Territory	225.0	38.5	261.5
Colorado Territory	316.0	105.0	656.0
Indian Territory	310.5		310.5
	32,143.7	1,702.2	33,905.9
Virginia	1,504.7	39.8	1,544.5
North Carolina	1,365.8	17.1	1,382.6
South Carolina	1,261.2	62.0	1,323.2
Georgia	2,180.4	21.0	2,201.4
Florida	475.7		475.7
Alabama	1,358.6	11.0	1,369.6
Mississippi	1,264.4	42.0	1,069.4
Louisiana	560.0		560.0
Texas	1,110.7	219.7	1,330.4
Kentucky	1,190.7	201.0	1,396.7
Tennessee	1,091.1	97.5	1,188.4
Arkansas	551.5	142.0	693.5
	14,468.8	847.9	15,316.4
California	1,491.3	193.0	1,684.3
Oregon	271.0	20.0	291.0
Nevada	569.0		569.0
Washington Territy	85.0	51.0	106.0
	2,412.3	259.0	2,671.3
RECAPITULATION.			
New England States	5,107.9	355.3	5,462.3
Middle States	13,242.5	966.5	14,209.0
Western States	32,143.7	1,702.2	33,905.9
Southern States	14,468.8	847.9	15,316.4
Pacific States, &c.	2,412.3	259.0	2,671.3
Grand total	67,374.0	4,190.9	71,564.9

DISTINGUISHED DEAD OF 1873.

Glancing back over the past year to recall the names of the distinguished people who in the course of it finished their earthly career, one's first impression regards their assumed multitude. We remember, week after week, to have heard of the deaths of persons who were represented as illustrious and memorable, and we fancy that the aggregate list for the entire year must be a very long one. On reflection, however, and recollecting how limited and faint most reputations really are, it would seem that the catalogue might be very short without striking average readers as grossly inadequate. Of the imperial and royal persons who died during the year, the ex-Emperor, LOUIS NAPOLEON, was the only one whose fame could be said to be world-wide, and in whom some interest was felt on this side of the Atlantic. Prince ADALBERT, of Prussia, was known and will be remembered not as a prince, but as an eminent naturalist and traveler. King JOHN, of Saxony, though a respectable ruler, was better known and will be longer remembered in foreign countries as the translator of DANTE and as a patron of literature than as a king. Of magistrates and statesmen lately deceased, ex-Governor GEARY, Chief Justice CHASE, Lord WESTBURY, ex-Chancellor of England, RATAZZI, of Italy, and Senator YATES, the famous war-Governor of Illinois, are best worthy of mention, as most American readers would miss their names in the list.

All, or nealy all, persons interested in religious affairs and in contemporary church history would miss the name of the Hon. and Rev. BAPTIST W. NOEL, an aristocrat by birth and a clergyman of the English Church, with all sorts of preferment in prospect, who, becoming convinced that an Established Church as it exists in England, is an enormous evil, and also satisfied that pedo-baptism has no sufficient warrant in the Holy Scriptures, left the establishment and joined the Babtists. His secession caused immense excitement at the time, and the dissenting body he joined hoped for a great accession of influence from his adhesion. However, the practical results of his change were not important, and the book in which he assailed the English Church and vindicated his own course was pretty generally thought a failure. Bishop MCILVAINE, of Ohio, will long be remembered with respect and affection, not only in his own denomination, but by all in other denominations who reverence piety and worth. Bishop WILBERFORCE, universally known in England, had no slight fame in this country also, partly derived from his father, and in part the result of his own literary labors. The Rev. JOHN TODD, of the Congregationalist body, was widely known as a writer of books, and as a popular preacher. His "Student's Manual" has had a great circulation even in Great Britain, while few American collegians of the last thirty years have failed to derive benefit from it. In religious circles Dr. GARDINER SPRING, author of many volumes of practical theology, will long be remembered, not only as a preacher and writer, but as having played a prominent part among the leaders of the great Presbyterian Church in difficult times.

CHARLES KNIGHT, famous in England in connection with popular instruction and with the provision of appropriate reading matter for the masses, was besides well known in the United States as the editor of Shakspeare and as the author of many useful works. Dr. W. H. MCGUFFEY, is and deserves to be remembered widely for his labors in the cause of popular education. He prepared a series of good school books.

Of the men of science who died in 1873, Baron LIEBIG, the chemist, was probably the most celebrated, at least on this side of the water. The Rev. ADAM SEDGWICK, Professor in the English University of Cambridge, was very eminent in geology, and besides exerted considerable influence in the cause of educational reform, but in this country he appears to be little known except to men of science. JOHN STUART MILL is more popular, though less practically influential here than he has been in England; his support of the North against the South having made him a favorite, and some of his books are much read. VON RAUMER, the voluminous and erudite German publicist, familiarly known by name, is not much known in reality among us.

AMADEE THIERRY, the French historian; Dr. NELATON, the great French surgeon; MANZONI, the literary idol of Italy in recent times, sometimes called the Italian WALTER SCOTT; LANDSEER, the painter; Sir HENRY HOLLAND, the great traveler and physician, are all names which intelligent readers would remember in recalling the deaths of the year. And none would be more easily remembered than HIRAM POWERS and Professor AGASSIZ. Nor may Sir EDWARD BULWER LYTTON be omitted.

PENNSYLVANIA, under the provision of the new Constitution allowing women to hold any office to which men are eligible under the school laws of the State, will present the singular spectacle of permitting those to hold office who cannot cast a vote. The right to hold office has generally been regarded as growing out of the right to vote; and certainly no one was ever before permitted to exercise official power who could not claim, as foremost among his qualifications, that of being a qualified voter.

We do not object to women holding office under the school laws; but we *do* object to depriving them, at the same time, of the right to to vote. If a woman is fit to serve as school director, and is able to discharge the duties of that place, she is fit, also, to vote; and to open the one door to her, while shutting the other, is as grossly unfair as it is illogical.

The office of school director carries with it, in its limited jurisdiction, both legislative and executive power. The school board levies the taxes necessary for the support of the schools, under its care, fixes the rate of taxation, collects the money through its agents, and spends it, and exercises a thorough control over the schools. The jurisdiction is small; but the power is large, and carries with it great responsibilities; and to say that it is right and fit to entrust this power to a woman—to give her the right to levy taxes and vote supplies—and yet deny to her the ballot, it is a monstrous injustice. A woman may say what money shall be raised for schools, and how it shall be spent; but she may not say who shall sit in counsel with her or who shall make the laws under which she acts!

When the people can work themselves up to the point of conceding to woman the power to hold office, they may as well make up their minds to go the whole figure and make her a voter as well as an office-holder. Consistency requires that the principle involved should be carried out in its completeness.

AN IMPORTANT distinction relative to the certification of checks has just been made by the Supreme Court of New York. Some time ago a New York merchant drew a small check on his banking house, which was raised to a much larger sum after passing out of his hands, and was altered so as to be payable to another banking firm, to whom it was offered in payment for gold. Before delivering the gold, they sent the check to the bank on which it was drawn, where it was certified. Thereupon the firm delivered the money and deposited the check in the bank. It went through the clearing house, and when the first bank discovered its false character they sued the bank from which they received it to recover the money. The referee before whom the case was tried, relying on the authorities which hold that a certification is only of the genuineness of the signature and not of the amount, gave judgment for the plaintiff. This decision the Supreme Court reverses, holding that those cases only apply where the value parted with was not on the faith of the certification. In this case they hold that the law of estoppel applies, since it was on the faith of the certification of the bank and not on trust in the simple check, that the brokers parted with their gold. The decision is of general interest to the business community at large.

INDICATIONS of a growing tendency on the part of the fiat branch of Congress toward inflation of the currency, begin to thicken. It is to be hoped, however, that the Senate will hold the House firmly in check. Fortunately, the Finance Committee is practically the same committee which last year agreed to a specie payment bill. The committee stands: For inflation, two; doubtful but conservative, one; against inflation, four. The probabilities are, therefore, that the Senate will promptly curb the House by refusing to wander off into the heretical paths trodden with the products of Pennsylvania and Virginia. In past years the tobacco product of Connecticut sold at such remunerative prices that each acre of arable land of the State was devoted to the culture of this soil-exhaustive plant, the profits realized from its ready sale being deemed an offset for the ruin it inflicted on the earth which nurtured it. In 1872 the market price receded, and the growers of tobacco in Connecticut refused to sell their crops. This year the fields again yielded an abundant harvest, the market for the weed continued dull and weak, and the growers find themselves overstocked with tobacco. Rent is short of funds, and the possessors of impoverished acres that once were fruitful. There is evidently room for the formation of tobacco granges, for why should not the puny gent leaf be made to sell at a profit to the producers as well as Western wheat and maize.

THE great cities of the United States stand relatively in the following order regarding exports and imports: Exports—New York, $315,000,000; New Orleans, $104,000,000; San Francisco, $39,000,000; Philadelphia, $34,000,000; Savannah, $32,000,000, and Boston, $27,000,000. Imports—New York, $426,000,000; Boston, $68,000,000; San Francisco, $39,000,000; Baltimore, $29,000,000, and Philadelphia, $25,000,000. Philadelphia stands fourth in exports and fifth in imports.

VULCANIZED rubber coated iron tubes are now manufactured in this city which will bear over 300 degrees heat, the rubber being prepared at 400 degrees Fahrenheit. The pipes can therefore be used for either hot or cold water. Gas and water are said to have no effect on them, and the coating resists sulphuric and muriatic acids and caustic potash solution. It is suggested that the process may be used for the preservation of iron ship plates and framing, if the rubber should resist the chemical action of copper in contact with iron under salt water. —*Philadelphia Ledger.*

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

It is not too late in the year for people to remember that there is no slightest gap between the divisions of time. The man of 1874 is precisely as lofty or as low as the man of 1873 has condemned him to be. Not the vows of the one day, but the payments of the 364 days, will set the man of 1875 in his higher place.

The engineers did not know how to engineer a strike. It is all over.

"Is public virtue declining" asks an exchange. No; when it got to the bottom it stopped." This sneer is from the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, which represents the base.

Mr. Bodkin, late of the Chicago *Times*, has become editor of the Milwaukee *Sentinel*. Hope he may put a quietus to all jobs and corrupt practices "with a bare bodkin."

O, for a Thad. Stevens to cut the comb of Ben. Butler!

A painful suspicion is abroad that the new House is too bulky, and has too much of the very raw material of statesmanship in it, to transact business with neatness and dispatch.

The Old and the New World are brought strangely close together, when an American secures from Russia emancipation for the slaves of Bokhara.

Here is a little couplet for venal Congressman. It is adapted from Pope's Dunciad:

Next o'er his cash his eyes begran to roll,
In pleasing memory of all he stole;
How here he sipped, now there he plundered snug,
And sucked or all, like an industrious bug.

Washington City is becoming famous for the number of divorces procured there. The business has been steadily increasing for three years, until now a score of lawyers are making such cases a specialty.

Congress will soon appoint a commission to regulate the quarantine at Southern ports, in compliance with the desires of a number of cities that are exposed to annual inroads from that terrible visitor, the yellow fever. Centralization?

Let no man boast him that he is safe now-a-days. Notice of a suit for breach of promise was last week served on a convict in the Indiana peni entiary.

The laurels won by America in polar discovery seem to have stimulated our cousins on the other side of the water to renewed exertions. Several of the leading scientific societies in England have appealed to the government to dispatch another expedition this year to the arctic region.

Congress has before it for consideration 1,085 bills. Of this number two hundred and thirty were introduced in the Senate and eight hundred and fifty-five in the House. Forty-seven bills relate to public buildings in different parts of the country. Something was once said about "counting the cost." This is the time to remember it.

Although usually considered an early date at which to begin preparations for an election to take place the following April, a buzz of scheming and canvassing is already heard in Connecticut.

Place aux dames! In less than three months more than thirty women have been appointed postmistresses in the United States.

It is stated now that Cornelius Vanderbilt, from whose estate the newspapers have subtracted from $5,000,000 to $10,000,000 by the crash, has, on the contrary, kept all he had of his $50,000,000, and bought stocks at so low a rate when they were down that he will by June be worth $60,000,000. He expects to increase his pile to a round hundred millions in five years. But there is an old story about a rich man and his barns.

The total clearings of the Chicago banks for the year 1873 were $1,047,617,828 33, exceeding those of the previous year $53,957,321 86. Unfortunately, however, Chicago cannot read her titles clear.

An appropriation by Congress of nearly two millions of dollars in gold will be required in satisfaction of the claims allowed by the late United States and British Commission.

The New York papers are doing a good work in their inquiries into the sanitary condition of the public schools, and particularly in the manner in which they are stirring up the foul atmosphere pervading those institutions.

Massachusetts has a town where the wedding bells haven't rung for years. But the hearts of expectant damsels living there are constantly wrung.

Blackwood insists that every man who is not a mathematician, a mad philosopher, or some other monster, is the slave of some madam, and it is probably more than half right.

The simon-pure Socialists of Chicago number about 400 men and consists of six sections, three German, one French, one Polish, and one Scandinavian.

PERSONAL.

Fifty-three journalists died in this country during the past year, of whom two committed suicide, three were accidentally drowned, and one was assassinated, not counting Ralph Keeler, whose fate is as yet unknown.

They are not all dead in England—the ninnies, we mean. One of them thinks there have been few men more worthy of reward than Lord Lafayette. He considers that he is entitled to some substantial recognition at the hands of the United States Congress, and how could they do it better than by granting a free piece of land to the 'reconcilier' on which he might end his days in peace. A section or two set apart by two would be gladly granted him by his admiring countrymen.

The vacancy in the office of the First Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, caused by the death of Gen. Sweet, will be filled by the President, it being the only Deputy Commissionership appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate; hence, it is outside of the rules governing Civil Service promotions by competitive examination.

It is stated that "one of our Consuls in the Holy Land" bids for popularity among tradespeople by guaranteeing the genuineness of goods made of the trees of the country which are sent to the United States and England to be sold as curiosities. There is but one Consulate in Palestine, and that is at Jerusalem, the salary attached to which is fifteen hundred dollars a year. Is it any wonder that the incumbent should try to eke out this miserable pittance by whatever small arts?

That bogus Rebecca Harding Davis, whose body was supposed to have been found, like truth, at the bottom of a well, out in Ypsilanti, is thought to have gone into the bogus corpse business also. It seems that the party had her life insured lately for $19,500, and had only paid first quarterly premiums on the policies.

Here is a touchingly beautiful illustration of the power of music: A New York clergyman, who is a fine singer, on a recent visit to a mad-house, approached the cell of a maniac, who rushed for him as far as his chain would allow, shouting "I'll kill you!" "I'll beat your brains out!" "Clear out!" Instead of moving, the preacher began to sing "Our Home in Heaven." First, the madman listened; then he stretched himself out to the full length of his chain. First one arm relaxed and then the other. Tears moistened his eyes. Then he coiled up on his bed of rags as quiet as a child. And when the hymn was ended he looked up, saying, "More, more." The preacher sung till his strength gave way and then he left.

It is remarkable what a number of the successful men of New York city are down-east Yankees. Governor Edwin Morgan went from Hartford and is worth two millions; Horace B. Claflin, the great dry goods king is from Massachusetts; Paran Stevens, who died, last year, with the reputation of being the greatest hotel-keeper in the world and worth three million dollars, was from New Hampshire; P. T. Barnum is from Danbury and Henry Ward Ameon B. Eno, of Boston, owns the Fifth Avenue Hotel and enough else to be worth two millions; and Judge Edwards Pierrepont is one of the numerous descendants of that extra-condensed New Englander, Jonathan Edwards.

Mme. Bazaine is a heroine. She is only twenty-eight years of age. She was a poor girl, without any fortune whatever, when Marshal Bazaine married her, but the Emperor Maximilian gave her a small property for her *dot*, which was afterward confiscated by Juarez. She is a beautiful young woman, an excellent mother, a loving wife, and a devoted friend, and she has pride enough to carry her through all her present trying circumstances.

THERE is a bitter dissatisfaction among many of the agriculturists of Connecticut, not on account of railroad monopolies nor yet on the score of excessive freight charges. The Nutmeg State's sons of the soil find themselves with two generous crops of tobacco on hand, the market price of the weed down, and the mare overstocked with the products of Pennsylvania and Virginia. In past years the tobacco product of Connecticut sold at such remunerative prices that each acre of arable land of the State was devoted to the culture of this soil-exhaustive plant, the profits realized from its ready sale being deemed an offset for the ruin it inflicted on the earth which nurtured it. In 1872 the market price receded, and the growers of tobacco in Connecticut refused to sell their crops. This year the fields again yielded an abundant harvest, the market for the weed continued dull and weak, and the growers find themselves overstocked with tobacco. Rent is short of funds, and the possessors of impoverished acres that once were fruitful. There is evidently room for the formation of tobacco granges, for why should not the puny gent leaf be made to sell at a profit to the producers as well as Western wheat and maize.

THE great cities of the United States stand relatively in the following order regarding exports and imports: Exports—New York, $315,000,000; New Orleans, $104,000,000; San Francisco, $39,000,000; Philadelphia, $34,000,000; Savannah, $32,000,000, and Boston, $27,000,000. Imports—New York, $426,000,000; Boston, $68,000,000; San Francisco, $39,000,000; Baltimore, $29,000,000, and Philadelphia, $25,000,000. Philadelphia stands fourth in exports and fifth in imports.

STATE NEWS.

Operations will be resumed by the Williamsport foundrymen on Monday next.

George R. Coe's jewelry store in Easton was entered by burglars on Monday night, and completely cleaned out of everything valuable. The thieves carried off fully $4,000 worth of goods.

There were 412 deaths in Reading during the last six months of 1873.

A lemon grown in a Williamsport greenhouse measures eleven inches by twelve.

A shooting match took place at Shamokin the other day for a 1,000 pound hog.

The Harrisburg death roll for 1873 bears 375 names. There were 481 deaths there in 1872.

The Scott Legion of Philadelphia has appointed the following delegates to a convention which will be held in Washington, January 15, 1874: General E. R. Biles, Colonels A. H. Reynolds, George Moore and Robert Klotz; Alternate, Major William J. Mackey. The object of this convention is to appeal to Congress to grant pensions to those soldiers who took an active part in the war and secured for their country a territory of about 450,000 square miles, comprising what is now known as